

## Message Text

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PAGE 01   SOFIA 00770 261136Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 OES-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 L-03  
/055 W

-----057136 261431Z /41

R 261020Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4475  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0770

ATHENS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PN, EAGR, BU  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IMPENDING CHANGES AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1. FOLLOWING DISMAL AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN 1977  
WHEN OUTPUT FELL 6.3 PERCENT, CIRCUMSTANTIAL  
EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING THAT HIGH LEVEL CHANGES WITHIN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY MAY BE IN THE  
OFFING. MINISTER GANCHO KRUSTEV LOOKS PARTICULARLY  
VULNERABLE.

2. ACCORDING TO WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, ABOUT TWO WEEKS  
AGO BULGARIAN SIDE PROPOSED APRIL 26 AS DATE FOR KRUSTEV  
VISIT TO FRG; HOWEVER, AT LAST MINUTE VISIT WAS ABRUPTLY  
CANCELLED WITH NO EXPLANATION GIVEN.

3. IN ADDITION, DURING RECENT BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY  
CONFERENCE, DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER FILIP ISHPEKOV  
(MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS) UNEXPECTEDLY  
DELIVERED SPEECH ON AGRICULTURE EVEN THOUGH HE IS OUT-  
RANKED WITHIN THE MINISTRY BY TWO FIRST DEPUTY MINISTERS  
AND IN THE PARTY BY AT LEAST ONE OTHER DEPUTY MINISTER.

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4. IN LIGHT OF BULGARIAN TENDENCY TO REPLACE MINISTERS  
WHEN PRODUCTION FAILS, ABOVE EVENTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY UNUSUAL  
TO WARRANT ATTENTION. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE NOT YET SUC-  
CEEDED IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH ISHPEKOV TO BEGIN NEGOTIA-  
TIONS ON PROPOSED JOINT US-BULGARIAN STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE,  
NOR HAVE THE BULGARIANS RESPONDED TO SECRETARY BERGLAND'S INVI-

TATION TO KRUSTEV FOR A VISIT TO US IN JUNE.

5. NOW THAT PARTY CONFERENCE IS OVER, WE ARE PRESSING  
FORWARD ON QUESTIONS OF INVITATION AND JOINT STATEMENT AND  
WILL REPORT GOB REACTIONS PROMPTLY.  
GARTHOFF

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, REPORTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SOFIA00770  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780178-0557  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE IMPENDING CHANGES AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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